

Increase Business Recycling



Fairfax County currently requires all businesses that employ 200 people or more or that generate 100 tons or more of waste annually to recycle their principal recyclable materials (white office paper, for example). Many businesses in the county with less than 200 employees generate large volumes of recyclables but do not recycle. By lowering the size of businesses that must recycle,

Fairfax County can dramatically increase the business recycling rate and the overall county recycling rate.

County staff will study various alternatives for reducing the mandatory recycling threshold, perhaps including businesses that employ 50 persons or more or generate 50 tons or more of trash annually. Another option that would further increase recycling rates would be to require larger businesses to also recycle other materials beyond the principal recyclable material. Staff will work with the Business Advisory Committee and the Chamber of Commerce to phase in a program that will encourage all businesses to recycle more materials.

Promote CDD Recycling at the I-66 Transfer Station (or Other Location)

Fairfax County can increase CDD recycling by constructing or promoting the construction (by a private firm) of a CDD waste processing and recycling facility. The major constituents of CDD can all be recovered and processed into recycled-content products. Concrete, asphalt, metals, wood, gypsum wallboard, and asphalt shingles, if not too severely contaminated, have all been processed and recycled.



Fairfax County may promote the construction of the CDD recycling facility through a public/private partnership with a private firm. By promoting the construction of the facility rather than building it, the county eliminates most of the facility's financial responsibilities. The county will need to evaluate whether eliminating the financial burden surpasses the reduced influence over CDD recycling operations.

Revise Regulations and Policies to Enhance Recycling

Fairfax County can increase MSW recycling rates by revising county code, policies and/or procedures. Using county code and policy can effectively advance programs and policies that encourage increased

recycling. Some potential regulatory and policy revisions are discussed below.

Expand Curbside Recyclables Collected

Under County Code, Section 109-2-1, Fairfax County baseline recycling requirements for households include the following: green, clear, and brown container glass; metal food and beverage containers; and newspaper. These requirements establish the recyclables that must be collected; some haulers in the county provide collection of other recyclables.



*The SWMP Public Opinion Survey revealed that **83.5% of the respondents routinely recycle at the curb.** Expanding recyclable materials collected will likely increase recycling quantities since so many residents already recycle.*

Requiring more recyclables to be collected will likely increase the residential recycling rate in the county. County staff is currently investigating the new materials to be recycled, but consider the markets developed sufficiently to potentially handle the addition of cardboard, plastics, and mixed paper to the mandatory recycling list of materials to be collected curbside.

Public education efforts will also benefit from expanded recycling requirements. Expanded recycling requirements for collectors would

enable the county to simplify and standardize its countywide recycling message.

Revise County Code to Require CDD Recycling and/or Recycling Plans



Currently, there are no requirements in Fairfax County to recycle CDD. Using County Code, the county can establish CDD recycling standards and guidelines for new construction and remodeling projects. Through these requirements, the county can substantially increase CDD recycling from its current low levels. The county may consider establishing

these requirements with a threshold, similar to commercial recycling. For example, the county may require all building projects with costs that exceed \$25,000, including construction and demolition, to recycle materials generated on-site. County staff will evaluate alternative implementation strategies and working with Business Advisory Committee finds ways to phase in increased requirements.

Fairfax County will investigate requiring recycling plans as a condition in the building permitting process. Through mandating the development of recycling plans, the county will oblige building contractors to implement processes that divert CDD to recycling rather than disposal.